GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:660
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
INDO-SAUDI ARABIA TIES
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI;MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED;TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government propose to further strengthen bilateral ties with Saudi Arabia.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether certain areas have been identified for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) Whether any Indian delegation was scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia recently;

(f) if so, whether the same had been posponed; and
(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a & b) Yes Sir, India and Saudi Arabia already have cordial relations and efforts continue to further strengthen Indo-Saudi Relations.

(c & d) High level political interaction, increase in bilateral trade and employment of about 1.5mn Indian in Saudi Arabia are the main areas of co-operation.

(e,f & g) Our External Affair Minister along with a delegation was to visit SaudiArabia recently. However the visit was postponed owing to the Middle East crisis, and the pre-occupation of Saudi leaders with the Extra-ordinary Arab Summit and other important meetings amongst Arab leaders.